

**From:** Minister Naughten [Minister.Naughten@DCCAIE.gov.ie]  
**Sent:** 03 July 2017 16:45  
**To:** Kevin O'Regan  
**Subject:** RE: Election Posters

REF: CG-2017 404

Dear Mr. O' Regan,

I refer to your recent correspondence on behalf of the Ballincollig Carrigaline Municipal District members in relation to election posters.

I am aware that election posters can appear unsightly and my Department examined this issue in 2008. In September 2008, a public consultation process on the control of postering for elections and referenda was conducted. Following the public consultation, a number of factors were identified that influenced the decision to not completely ban the use of election posters. On foot of the public consultation on election posters, a number of pilot schemes were put in place on a voluntary basis by some local authorities, during the 2009 European, Local and Bye-Elections, with a view to examining the merits of the introduction of further controls regarding election posters. These pilot schemes were intended to examine how the following measures would work in practice. The pilot schemes comprised of:

- The use of biodegradable plastic ties or colour coding of plastic ties
- The display of posters in designated areas only
- Restricting the numbers of posters per candidate
- Restricting the numbers of posters to 2 (back to back) per pole

An analysis of the pilot schemes, taking account of feedback obtained from local authorities, brought to light several impracticalities including the difficulties that local authorities would encounter operationally in enforcing legislation put in place to adopt any of the pilots. However, in a measure designed to limit the impact of these posters, the Litter Pollution Act 1997 was amended to introduce a time limit prior to an election taking place, during which election posters can be displayed. Previously, the legislation required that election posters must be taken down within 7 days of an election. It is now the position that election posters can only be displayed for a maximum of 30 days prior to an election and must be removed 7 days after an election has taken place. My Department writes to all political parties prior to each election to remind them of their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Acts, which require the removal of both election posters and cable ties within 7 days of the election being held. Enforcement of these requirements is a matter for the local authorities.

I understand that in some areas of the country, in advance of previous elections, local groups have come to an agreement with political candidates to restrict election posters to defined areas. Where these agreements (commonly between tidy town committees and candidates on election posters) have been made, they have worked very well and are adhered to in the majority of cases. Your local authority Environmental Awareness Officer may be able to assist you with putting these sort of arrangements in place on a voluntary basis by liaising with TidyTown groups.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Denis Naughten", written over a horizontal line.

Denis Naughten, T.D.  
Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.